



Building Missouri's future...by degrees

March 10, 2011

Stephen J. Owens  
Interim President  
University of Missouri System  
321 University Hall  
Columbia, MO 65211-3020

Dear President Owens:

Your request for a waiver of the penalty for increasing tuition and required fees by 5.5 percent, which exceeds the amount specified under provisions of the Higher Education Student Funding Act (HESFA), is approved.

In arriving at my decision, I considered the information provided in your waiver request of February 7, 2011, against the evaluation criteria previously published by the Missouri Department of Higher Education. I also considered separate recommendations of department staff and reviewed your responses to questions I posed regarding (1) tracking of tuition revenue that is earmarked for financial aid for students with documented financial need, and (2) the university's plans to increase funding for urgent maintenance and repair projects.

The final increase is substantially below what the university considered necessary, which I believe reflects a positive response to Governor Nixon's decision to hold the budget cut for universities to 7 percent in FY12. We owe it to Missouri's students and their families to keep universities affordable and accessible. I encourage you to continue to control tuition by aggressively seeking every possible opportunity to reduce operating costs and make the university as efficient as possible.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "David R. Russell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

David R. Russell, Ph.D.  
Commissioner of Higher Education

c: Natalie "Nikki" Krawitz, Vice President for Finance and Administration, UM  
Phil Hoskins, Acting General Counsel  
Cuba Plain, Assistant Vice President, Budget Planning and Development, UM  
Joe Cornelison, General Counsel, MDHE  
Paul Wagner, Deputy Commissioner, MDHE

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